

PATENTTI- JA REKISTERIHALLITUS
NATIONAL BOARD OF PATENTS AND REGISTRATION

Helsinki 9.9.2003

ETUOIKEUSTODISTUS
PRIORITY DOCUMENT



Hakija
Applicant

Nokia Corporation
Helsinki

Patenttihakemus nro
Patent application no

20031176

Tekemispäivä
Filing date

21.08.2003

Kansainvälinen luokka
International class

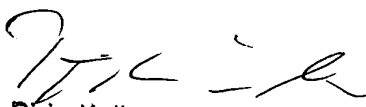
H04B

Keksinnön nimitys
Title of invention

"Communication method and arrangement"
(Viestintämenetelmä ja -järjestely)

Täten todistetaan, että oheiset asiakirjat ovat tarkkoja jäljennöksiä Patentti- ja rekisterihallitukselle alkuaan annetuista selityksestä, patenttivaatimuksista, tiivistelmästä ja piirustuksista.

This is to certify that the annexed documents are true copies of the description, claims, abstract and drawings originally filed with the Finnish Patent Office.


Pirjo Kaila
Tutkimussihteeri

Maksu 50 €
Fee 50 EUR

Maksu perustuu kauppa- ja teollisuusministeriön antamaan asetukseen 1027/2001 Patentti- ja rekisterihallituksen maksullisista suoritteista muutoksineen.

The fee is based on the Decree with amendments of the Ministry of Trade and Industry No. 1027/2001 concerning the chargeable services of the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland.

Osoite: Arkadiankatu 6 A Puhelin: 09 6939 500 Telefax: 09 6939 5328
P.O.Box 1160 Telephone: + 358 9 6939 500 Telefax: + 358 9 6939 5328
FIN-00101 Helsinki, FINLAND

Communication method and arrangement nt

Field

The invention relates to a communication method and arrangement based on a packet switched connection in a radio system.

5 Background

It is vital to have power control of signals in a radio system. This is of a particular importance in a CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) radio system, which is interference-limited. The main task of the power control in a CDMA radio system is to limit signal powers, and hence increase capacity by
10 decreasing interference inside each cell.

For example, in a WCDMA (Wide band CDMA) radio system the power control mechanism comprises an inner loop power control and an outer loop power control.

The purpose of the inner loop power control is to eliminate rapid
15 variations in the strength of a received signal caused by the radio channel.

In the inner loop power control, a base station compares the SIR (Signal Interference Ratio) of the received signal to a target SIR. If the SIR of the received signal is below the target SIR, the base station transmits a signal commanding the user terminal to increase its transmission power. Correspond-
20 ingly, if the SIR of the received signal is above the target SIR, the base station transmits a signal commanding the user terminal to decrease its transmission power.

In the outer loop control a radio network controller (RNC) compares the quality of service to a target quality. The quality can be measured as, for
25 instance, BER (Bit Error Rate), BLER (Block Error Rate), FER (Frame Error Rate), CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check), soft information from the decoder, ratio of received bit energy and noise, etc. If the quality of service is below the target quality, the RNC commands the base station to increase its target SIR. Similarly, if the quality of service is above the target quality, the RNC com-
30 mands the base station to decrease its target SIR.

In radio systems utilizing packet-switched connection, the packets are usually protected against noise, fading and interference by channel coding, such as FEC (Forward Error correction Coding). In spite of protection, failure may occur in the reception of a packet, which can be compensated for by re-
35 transmission. The retransmission takes place when the receiving transceiver of

packets requests the faulty packet to be repeated. This can be performed by an ARQ (Automatic Repeat Request) mechanism. In a receiver utilizing HARQ (Hybrid ARQ), the faulty packet and the retransmitted packet can be combined. The combining can be especially effective if different transmissions of the same packet are utilized in decoding.

There are, however, problems related to the use of retransmission with power control, especially in the case of HARQ. When a packet is communicated unsuccessfully, the outer loop power control increases the target SIR, which unnecessarily leads to a higher transmission power during retransmission of the packet. The increased transmission power in relation to interference in turn decreases the capacity and service quality of the radio system.

Brief description of the invention

An object of the invention is to provide an improved power control mechanism. According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided a communication method in a CDMA radio system using a transmission power control based on a SIR measurement, the method comprising: communicating between at least two transceivers of the radio system using a packet switched connection through a radio interface, measuring a quality of the packet switched connection, adjusting a target SIR based on the quality measured, transmitting, from a transceiver receiving packets, a request to retransmit at least one packet having failure in reception, retransmitting, from a transceiver transmitting packets, each packet requested as a response to the request. Moreover, the method comprises controlling a transmission power by setting a lower target SIR for retransmission of a packet than the target SIR for the first transmission of the corresponding packet.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a communication arrangement in a CDMA radio system using a transmission power control based on a SIR measurement, the arrangement comprising: at least two transceivers of the radio system being configured to communicate with a packet switched connection through a radio interface, means for measuring a quality of the packet switched connection, the arrangement is configured to adjust a target SIR based on the quality measured, a transceiver receiving packets is configured to transmit a request to retransmit in the case of failure in reception of at least one packet, a transceiver transmitting packets is configured to retransmit each packet requested as a response to the request. Moreover, the arrangement is configured to set a lower target SIR for retrans-

mission of a packet than the target SIR for the first transmission of the corresponding packet.

Preferred embodiments of the invention are described in the dependent claims.

- 5 The invention provides several advantages. The present solution provides a specific way to control the transmission power of retransmissions and it improves the capacity of a cell by reducing interference.

List of drawings

- 10 In the following, the invention will be described in greater detail with reference to the preferred embodiments and the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 shows a radio system,

Figure 2 illustrates power control,

- 15 Figure 3A shows transmission and retransmission of packets according to the stop and wait principle,

Figure 3B illustrates behaviour of transmission power in relation to transmission and retransmission in Figure 3A,

Figure 4 shows transmission and retransmission of packets according to a selective repeat scheme,

- 20 Figure 5 shows closed loop power control,

Figure 6 shows a flow chart of the present method, and

Figure 7 illustrates simulation results.

Description of embodiments

- 25 Let us first study Figure 1 that illustrates the structure of a radio system. The radio system can be based on, for example, UMTS (Universal Mobile Telephone System) or WCDMA (Wide-band Code Division Multiple Access).

- 30 The core network may, for example, correspond to the combined structure of the GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) and GPRS systems. The GSM network elements are responsible for the implementation of circuit-switched connections, and the GPRS network elements for the implementation of packet-switched connections, some of the network elements being, however, shared by both systems.

A mobile services switching centre (MSC) 100 enables circuit-switched signalling in the radio system. A serving GPRS support node (SGSN)

101 in turn enables packet-switched signalling. All traffic in the radio system may be controlled by the MSC 100.

The core network may have a gateway unit 102, which represents a gateway mobile service switching centre (GMSC) for attending to the circuit-switched connections between the core network and external networks, such as a public land mobile network (PLMN) or a public switched telephone network (PSTN). A gateway GPRS support node (GGSN) 103 attends to the packet-switched connections between the core network and external networks, such as the Internet.

The MSC 100 and the SGSN are connected to a radio access network (RAN) 104, which may comprise at least one base station controller 106 controlling at least one base station 108. The base station controller 106 can also be called a radio network controller, and the base station can be called a node B. A user terminal 110 communicates with at least one base station 108 over a radio interface.

The user terminal 110 can communicate with the base station 108 using a GPRS method. Data in packets contain address and control data in addition to the actual traffic data. Several connections may employ the same transmission channel simultaneously. A packet-switching method is suitable for data transmission where the data to be transmitted is generated in bursts. In such a case, it is not necessary to allocate a data link for the entire duration of transmission but only for the time it takes to transmit the packets. This reduces costs and saves capacity considerably during both the set-up and use of the network.

Figure 2 represents both outer and inner loop power control. When the user terminal 110 transmits a signal 200, such as a packet, to a base station 108, the base station 108 forms a SIR (Signal-to-Interference Ratio) estimate of the received signal. The base station compares the SIR estimate to a target SIR, and transmits a signal 202 with a command, which depends on the comparison. If the value of the SIR estimate is smaller than the value of the target SIR, the base station 108 commands the user terminal 110 to increase its transmission power. If, on the other hand, the SIR estimate is higher than the target SIR, the base station commands the user terminal to decrease its transmission power.

The base station 108 sends the radio network controller 106 a signal 204 having information on the quality of the connection. The quality can be

the quality of service and the information can indicate frame reliability, which can be based on the use of a reliability indicator. The reliability indicator can be CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check), estimated BER, soft information from a decoder, E_b/N_0 , etc.

- 5 The target SIR can be changed by an outer-loop power control algorithm which in prior art can be expressed as follows:

$$\text{Target_SIR}(n+1) = \text{Target_SIR}(n) \pm \Delta[\text{dB}], \quad (1)$$

- 10 where the calculation can be in dB scale, Target_SIR represents the target SIR and n is the index of coding block. The delta can be defined as $\Delta = \hat{f}s - F_{th}s$, where \hat{f} is 1 when there is a block error and \hat{f} is 0 when there is no block error, F_{th} is the desired (target) BLER, which varies typically between 1% to 20%, and s is the step size of the delta (such as 1 dB, 2 dB or 3 dB).

- 15 The radio network controller 106 in turn sends the base station 108 a signal 206 having effect on the target SIR according to the formula (1). If the value of the quality of service is below a quality target value, which is true in the case of failure in reception of a packet, the radio network controller 108 increases the target SIR in the base station 108. As a result of this, the average transmission power of a retransmission of a packet is higher than during
20 the first transmission of the packet, assuming the interference level is the same. The interference is also considered to include noise. If the value of the quality of service is above a target value, the radio network controller 108 decreases the target SIR in the base station 108, which lowers the average trans-
25 mission power with respect to interference. This takes place when a packet is received successfully.

According to the present solution, the target SIR can be defined by an outer-loop power control algorithm as follows:

30 $\text{Target_SIR}(N^{th}) = \text{Target_SIR}(\text{master}) - \text{Step}(N^{th})[\text{dB}], \quad (2)$

- where $\text{Target_SIR}(N^{th})$ means the SIR of the N^{th} retransmission of a packet, $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ means the target SIR of the first transmission of a packet, $\text{Step}(N^{th})$ means the amount in decrease in the transmission power of the re-
35 transmission and N is an ordinal number denoting the index of retransmission. $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ can be adjusted e.g. according to the formula (1). Often

there are at maximum two retransmissions ($N = 1$ or 2), but in general there can be any number of retransmissions from 1 to infinity. Thus, the present solution can be configured to define a specific target SIR for each retransmission of a packet.

5 Figures 3A and 3B show transmission and retransmission of packets using the stop and wait principle, which is known per se by a person skilled in the art. The stop and wait principle corresponds to the case where a transmitter is capable of memorizing only one packet at a time. The transmitter does not transmit a packet before it receives an ACK (Acknowledge) signal or a
10 NACK (Not Acknowledge) signal from the receiver.

 After the first packet 300 is transmitted from the transmitter, it is acknowledged as successfully received by an ACK signal 312 from the receiver. At moment 322 before transmitting a new packet 302 the target SIR is lowered because of a successful transmission. Right after that at moment 324 the
15 transmission power is adjusted according to the decreased target SIR leading to a lowered average transmission power (if the noise level has not increased). Then the second packet 302 is transmitted but because there is a failure in reception, the receiver of the packet 302 transmits a NACK signal 314 requesting a retransmission of the faulty packet. According to the present solution, the
20 target SIR for retransmissions is adjusted differently from the first transmission of a packet. Hence, the target SIR is lowered according to formula (2) at moment 326. The target SIR for the first retransmission becomes $\text{Target_SIR}(1^{\text{st}}) = \text{Target_SIR}(\text{master}) - \text{Step}(1^{\text{st}})$, where the term $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ is the target SIR at moment 322. The transmission power at moment 328 is adjusted
25 according to the decreased target SIR. The transmitter transmits the packet again (packet 304) at a lowered transmission power with respect to the interference level. However, the transmission fails again and the receiver transmits a NACK signal 316. The target SIR can be adjusted again, and in this example it is decreased at moment 330. The target SIR becomes $\text{Target_SIR}(2^{\text{nd}}) =$
30 $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master}) - \text{Step}(2^{\text{nd}})$, where the term $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ is the target SIR 322 (the target SIR for the first transmission of a packet). The transmission power at moment 332 is adjusted according to the decreased target SIR. The transmitter transmits the packet once again (packet 306) at a lowered transmission power. This time the packet is correctly received and the receiver
35 transmits an ACK signal 318. The target SIR is increased at moment 334 leading to an increased transmission power (relative to the interference) at moment

336 for the first transmission of a packet 308, the successful reception of which is acknowledged by an ACK signal 320.

Figure 4 illustrates the communication in the case of the selective repeat scheme. In this case both the transmitter and the receiver have buffer memories for storing packets. The first packet 400 is successfully transmitted, which is acknowledged by an ACK signal 414 from the receiver. The target SIR is adjusted at moment 430. The second packet 402 is transmitted, but as it fails, the receiver transmits a NACK signal 416. The target SIR is adjusted similarly to the prior art at moment 432, and the third packet 404 is transmitted successfully and acknowledged with an ACK signal 418 from the receiver. The target SIR at moment 434 is calculated using formula (2) such that the term $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ is the target SIR at moment 432. The target SIR for the first retransmission becomes $\text{Target_SIR}(1^{\text{st}}) = \text{Target_SIR}(\text{master}) - \Delta(1^{\text{st}})$, which lowers the average transmission power of the packet 406 in relation to interference. The retransmission fails, however, and the receiver transmits a NACK signal 420. The target SIR for the packet 408, which is the first transmission, is formed conventionally according to the prior art at moment 436. Since the transmission is successful, the receiver transmits an ACK signal 422. The target SIR for the packet 410 is formed by formula (2) such that the term $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ is the target SIR 436. The target SIR for the second retransmission becomes $\text{Target_SIR}(2^{\text{nd}}) = \text{Target_SIR}(\text{master}) - \Delta(2^{\text{nd}})$, which lowers the average transmission power of the packet 410 in relation to interference. This transmission leads to an ACK signal 424 from the receiver. The transmission of packets continues similarly with the packet 412, etc.

The present solution lowers the absolute transmission power of the retransmission compared to the first transmission of a particular packet, if the channel keeps unchanged (no change, for example, in path loss, slow fading and fast fading). Since this is rarely the situation in a radio system, the transmission power depends on both the interference level and the transmission power of the first transmission of the packet, resulting usually in a lowered average transmission power.

Figure 5 illustrates a closed loop power control. The data for the user can be input from a buffer memory 500 to a multiplexer 502, which multiplexes the power control bits to the data stream in a base station 108. The buffer memory is not always needed. The data is encoded by a FEC code, such as a turbo code, and the data may also include information on the type of

HARQ (type I HARQ, type II HARQ). The baseband signal with data and power control bits is spread by a CDMA spreading code and mixed with a desired carrier frequency (coding, type defining, spreading and mixing are not shown in Figure 5) in order to transmit the radio frequency signal from an antenna 504.

5 An antenna 506 of a user terminal 110 receives the signal. The signal is mixed to a baseband signal and despread by a spreading code (despreading and mixing are not shown in Figure 5). The signal is demultiplexed in a demultiplexer 508, which separates data and power control bits. The data is fed to a block 510 to be decoded. The block 510 may include a buffer memory for storing a

10 packet. The power control bits are fed to a power amplifier 512, which adjusts its amplification according to the power control bits. The power amplifier 512 amplifies the signal to be transmitted by the user terminal 110. The transmitter of the user terminal is basically similar to the transmitter of the base station. The signal is transmitted from an antenna 514, which may be the same as the

15 antenna 506. The antenna 516, which may be the same as the antenna 504, receives the signal which is mixed to a baseband signal and despread by a spreading code (despreading and mixing are not shown in Figure 5). The signal is then fed to a decoding block 518. The SIR measurement in the block 520 can be made before or after the decoding (either of the two arrows). The block

20 520 performs the SIR estimation for the despread control symbols. Generally, the SIR measurement is divided into a signal power measurement and an interference power measurement. The measurement is performed on the DPCCH channel (Dedicated Physical Control Channel). The measured SIR is compared with the target SIR received from the radio network controller in the

25 block 522. Based on the comparison, the block 522 inputs the power control bits to the multiplexer 502.

Instead of changing the transmission a step up or down, the power control bits may define a specific transmission power for each retransmission of a packet.

30 A way to implement HARQ is to use chase combining where a retransmitted packet is similar to the originally transmitted packet. To further improve performance, it is also possible to use incremental redundancy (IR), where a retransmitted packet comprises new redundancy bits. To utilize HARQ, the receiving transceiver is equipped with a buffer memory in which

35 faulty packets can be stored (in Figure 5 the block 510 includes the buffer

memory). To operate like in Figure 4 the transmitter also needs a memory (in Figure 5 the block 500).

Figure 6 shows again the main steps of the presented method. In step 600 at least two transceivers of the radio system communicate using a packet switched connection through a radio interface. In step 602 the quality of the packet switched connection is measured. The power control system adjusts a target SIR based on the quality measured in step 604. In the step 606 a transceiver receiving packets transmits a request to retransmit at least one packet having failure in reception. In step 608 a transceiver transmitting packets transmits each packet requested as a response to the request. In step 610 the transmission power is controlled by setting a lower target SIR for retransmission of a packet than the target SIR for the first transmission of the corresponding packet.

Figure 7 shows simulation results of the use of the present solution. In this example it is assumed that the user terminal moves 3 km/h, data rate is 384 kbps with 1/3 turbo coding, HARQ with chase combining is used and the maximum number of retransmissions is 2. Curve 700 represents a case where the failed transmission (first transmission or first retransmission) of a packet is not utilized in the combining. Curves 702 to 706 represent cases where the failed transmission of a packet is utilized in the combining. In curve 702 a retransmitted packet is transmitted using the same power as the first packet. In curve 704 a retransmitted packet transmitted is transmitted using 2 dB smaller target SIR value than the first packet. In curve 706 a retransmitted packet is transmitted using 5 dB smaller target SIR value than the first packet. With the decreasing power of the second transmission of a packet, the communication capacity increases. If the case represented by curve 700 is selected as a reference the case of curve 702 increases capacity by 5.1%, the case of curve 704 increases capacity by 13.30%, and the case of curve 706 increases capacity by 15.96%. Actually, the highest increase (16.41%) in capacity takes place close to the decrease of 4dB for the retransmission of a packet in this configuration. There is an optimum decrease in the target SIR value of the second transmission that has the maximum increase in capacity. However, a decrease in the target SIR value of the retransmission, particularly with respect to interference, usually tends to increase capacity.

According to the present solution, the transmission power of the dedicated control channel may also be lowered during a retransmission of a

packet or between transmissions of packets in order to decrease interference. This is achieved by adjusting the target SIR value properly.

Even though the invention is described above with reference to an example according to the accompanying drawings, it is clear that the invention
5 is not restricted thereto but it can be modified in several ways within the scope of the appended claims.

Claims

1. A communication method in a CDMA radio system using a transmission power control based on a SIR measurement, the method comprising:
 - 5 communicating (600) between at least two transceivers (108 to 110) of the radio system using a packet switched connection through a radio interface,
 - measuring (602) a quality of the packet switched connection,
 - adjusting (604) a target SIR based on the quality measured,
 - 10 transmitting (606), from a transceiver (110) receiving packets, a request to retransmit at least one packet having failure in reception,
 - retransmitting (608), from a transceiver (108) transmitting packets, each packet requested as a response to the request, characterized by
 - controlling (610) a transmission power by setting a lower target SIR
 - 15 for retransmission of a packet than the target SIR for the first transmission of the corresponding packet.
2. The method of claim 1, characterized by further comprising defining a specific target SIR for each retransmission of a packet.
3. The method of claim 1, characterized by further comprising
 - 20 setting a lower target SIR for the dedicated control channel between transmissions of packets than during the packets.
4. The method of claim 1, characterized by further comprising transmitting, from the transceiver receiving packets, a transmission strength at which to retransmit at least the one packet having failure in reception.
 - 25
5. The method of claim 1, characterized by further comprising setting the lower target SIR according the algorithm:

$$\text{Target_SIR}(N^{\text{th}}) = \text{Target_SIR}(\text{master}) - \text{Step}(N^{\text{th}})[\text{dB}],$$
 - 30

where $\text{Target_SIR}(N^{\text{th}})$ means the SIR of the N^{th} retransmission of a packet, $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ means the target SIR of the first transmission of a

packet, Step(N^{th}) means the amount in decrease in the transmission power of the retransmission, and N is an ordinal number denoting the index of retransmission.

6. A communication arrangement in a CDMA radio system using a transmission power control based on a SIR measurement, the arrangement comprising:

at least two transceivers (108 to 110) of the radio system being configured to communicate with a packet switched connection through a radio interface,

means (520) for measuring a quality of the packet switched connection,

the arrangement is configured to adjust a target SIR based on the quality measured,

a transceiver (110) receiving packets is configured to transmit a request to retransmit in the case of failure in reception of at least one packet,

a transceiver (108) transmitting packets is configured to retransmit each packet requested as a response to the request, characterized in that

the arrangement is configured to set a lower target SIR for retransmission of a packet than the target SIR for the first transmission of the corresponding packet.

7. The arrangement of claim 6, characterized in that the arrangement is configured to define a specific target SIR for each retransmission of a packet.

8. The arrangement of claim 6, characterized in that the arrangement is configured to set a lower target SIR for the dedicated control channel between transmissions of packets than during the packets.

9. The arrangement of claim 6, characterized in that transmitter receiving packets is configured to transmit a transmission strength at which to retransmit at least the one packet having failure in reception.

10. The arrangement of claim 6, characterized in that the arrangement is configured to set the lower target SIR according to the algorithm:

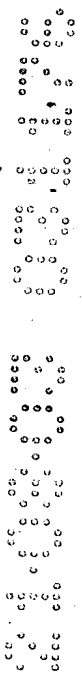
$$\text{Target_SIR}(N^{\text{th}}) = \text{Target_SIR}(\text{master}) - \text{Step}(N^{\text{th}})[\text{dB}],$$

where $\text{Target_SIR}(N^{\text{th}})$ means the SIR of the N^{th} retransmission of a packet, $\text{Target_SIR}(\text{master})$ means the target SIR of the first transmission of a packet, $\text{Step}(N^{\text{th}})$ means the amount in decrease in the transmission power of the retransmission, and N is an ordinal number denoting the index of retransmission.

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a communication method and a communication arrangement in a CDMA radio system. At least two transceivers (108 to 110) of the radio system communicate with a packet switched connection through a radio interface. The quality of the packet switched connection is measured and a target SIR is adjusted based on the quality measurement. When a transceiver (110) receiving packets transmits a request to retransmit in the case of failure in reception of at least one packet, a transceiver (108) transmitting packets is configured to retransmit each packet requested as a response to the request. The target SIR for retransmission of a packet is set lower than the target SIR for the first transmission of the corresponding packet.

(Figure 1)



L5

1/3

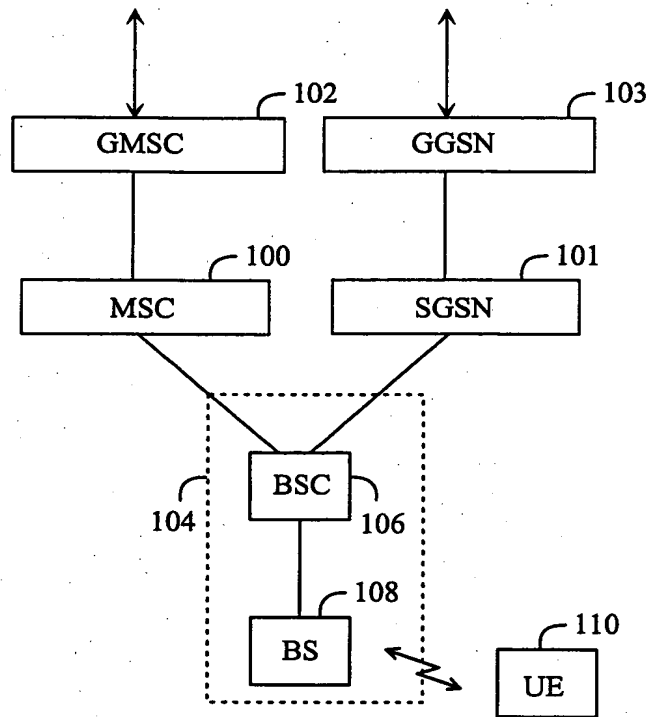


FIG. 1

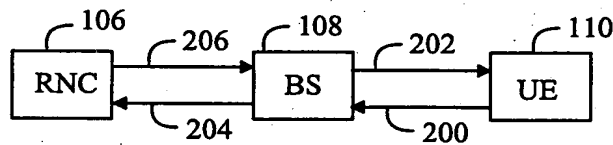


FIG. 2

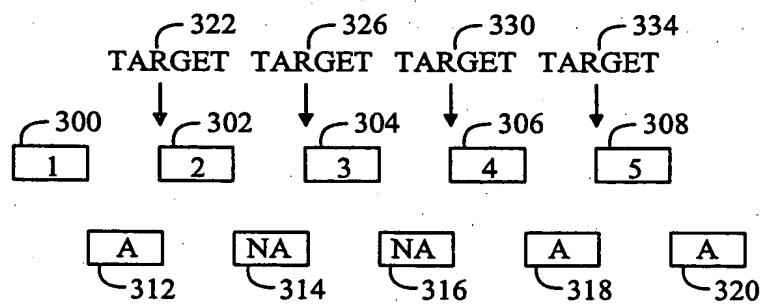


FIG. 3A

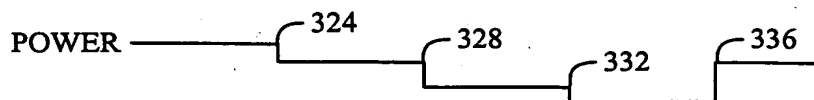


FIG. 3B

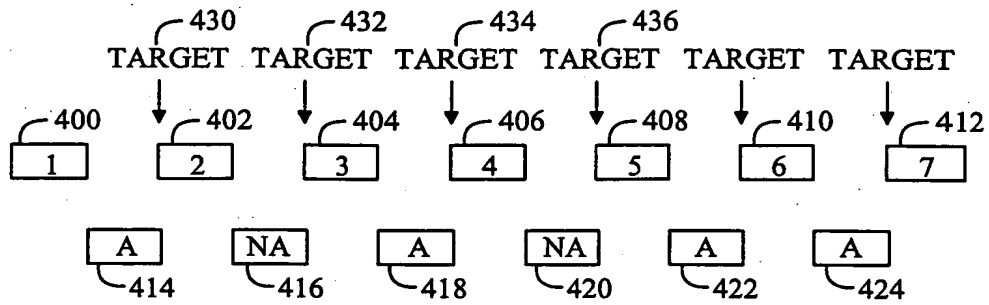


FIG. 4

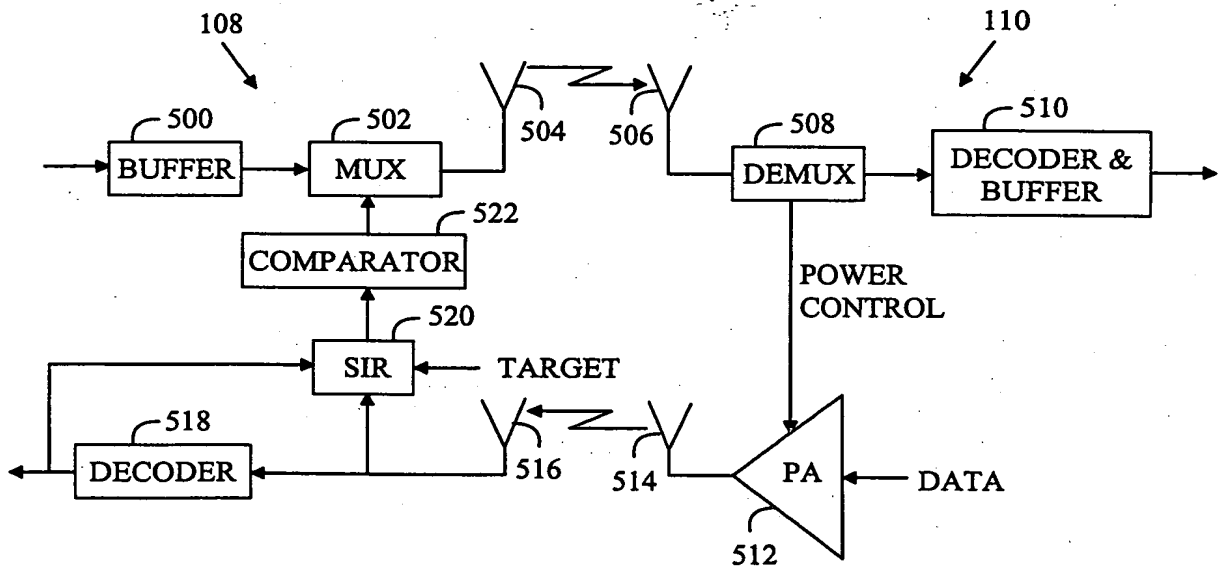


FIG. 5

L5
3/3

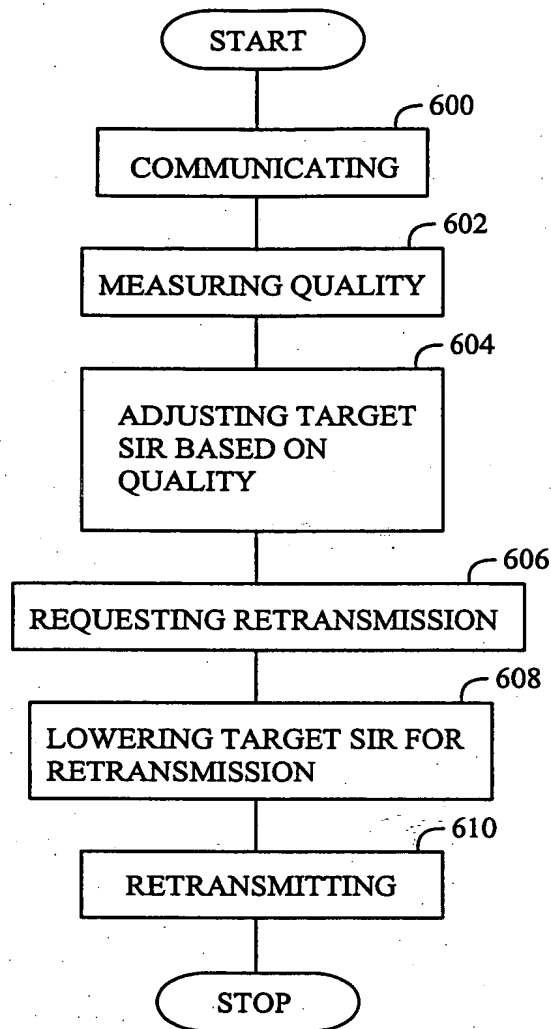


FIG. 6

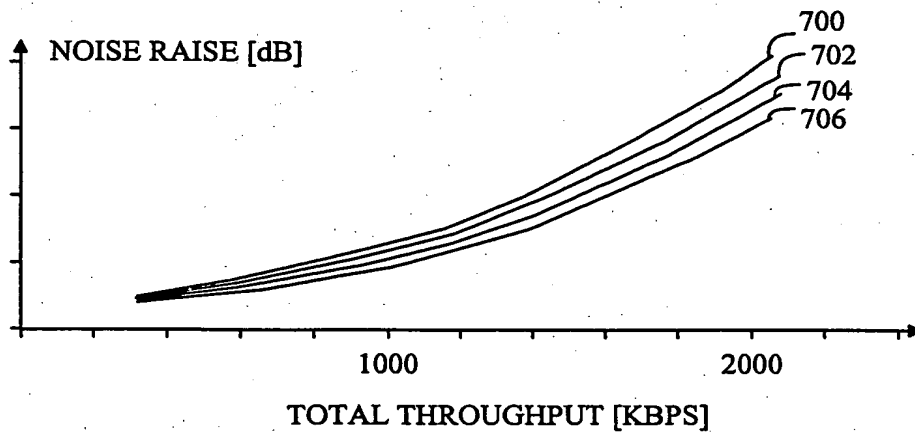


FIG. 7